

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 21-22, 25-26, and 34-35 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 15-20, 23-24, 27-33, and 36-46 have been cancelled, and claims 10-13, 21-22, 25-26, and 34-35 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, solely for the purpose of expediting patent prosecution in accordance with the U.S. Patent Office Business Goals (65 Fed. Reg. 54604 (September 8, 2000)).

Amended claims 10-13, 21-22, 25-26, and 34-35 contain corrections to include proper claim dependency and formatting. Support for amended claim 26 is found, *inter alia*, on page 8, lines 6-20 and page 22, lines 11-26 of the application as originally filed.

Applicants reserve the right to present any cancelled or deleted subject matter in a copending application. The amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed, and do not constitute new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

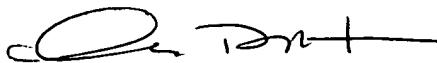
CONCLUSION

Prompt examination of the application is respectfully requested. Although no additional charges are believed to be due, the Commission is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's Deposit Account Number **50-0311**, Reference Number **24852-504 NATL**, Customer Number **35437**.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this Amendment would be helpful, the Examiner is hereby respectfully requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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